

General Overview of Christian Burial



The Order of Christian Funerals is a three-part ritual, with Vigil (viewing), Funeral Mass and Rite of Committal (interment). It is strongly encouraged that the Funeral Rites be conducted in the presence of the body of the deceased. This practice is most in accord with the sacred principles and rituals of the Christian Faith. However, the Mass of Christian Burial may also be celebrated with the cremains present in the church. The scattering of the cremains is not permitted, nor are the cremains to be kept in one's home. Care should be taken that the cremated remains of the deceased are accorded proper respect through interment in a cemetery, either in the ground or a mausoleum. **A funeral Mass will not take place if the family does not intend to bury the body/cremains following the funeral Mass.**

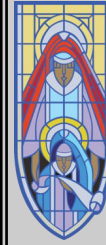
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Saint Ann

FUNERAL PROCEDURES

When a funeral is celebrated in a parish, it generally reflects the liturgical style and procedures of that specific parish. Although Mother Church has Universal Norms for all parishes, each parish has the right to work within those norms, adapting them to the personality of the parish. St. Ann has her own unique style, as do most other parishes, thus we ask families to respect and honor our policies. Those who do not or are dissatisfied with our policies are free to go to another parish and have that parish do the funeral.

We have provided this booklet to help families with the planning of the funeral liturgy and to inform them of our parish's policies. We ask families to be respectful of those helping with the planning of the funeral, most of whom are volunteers who do this because they deeply care and want to help you during this difficult time. They have been instructed to follow the policies, and not to grant special requests.

Funeral Times: Reflects the earliest times available

Monday	10:30am
Tuesday (School Year)	12:00pm (No Visitation)
Tuesday (Summer)	10:30am
Wednesday	10:30am
Thursday	No Funerals
Friday	10:30am
Saturday	*No Funerals

*Due to constraints of only one priest at St. Ann, Saturday funerals are not offered, unless the family arranges for another priest (who is approved by the Archdiocese) Additional fee of \$200 is required for the musician and parish coordinator.

St. Ann Funeral Guidelines

Reception of Holy Communion

Holy Communion – The Body and Blood of our Lord is the most sacred treasure we have as Catholics. It is the source and hope of our belief in eternal life “*Amen, Amen, I say to you unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will not have eternal life within you*” (John 6:53). Therefore, utmost respect and reverence should always be shown. We realize that not everyone who attends a funeral Mass is Catholic or has been practicing their Catholic faith. Holy Communion, however, is only to be received by those who are faithfully practicing Catholics. As a Catholic or the one arranging the funeral, we appreciate your help in communicating this to your family and others who may attend. The priest will make an announcement such as, “Only those who are practicing Catholics are able to receive Holy Communion; we ask all others to remain seated.” If you are going to print a program, we ask that you include this statement under Reception of Communion.

Distribution of Holy Communion

It is the custom at St. Ann that only the Body of Christ is distributed for funerals. The family may ask a parishioner to be the second Distributor. The norms of the Archdiocese allows a non-parishioner to distribute only if written permission from his/her pastor is given. If, however, there is a priest or deacon at the Mass, no lay person will be able to distribute.

Families who choose not to use a Funeral Home

The role of the funeral home is to help families plan and make easier what is already a very difficult and emotional situation. If you choose not to use a funeral home, we ask that when you meet with the parish bereavement group to plan the funeral that you at the same time provide the parish with the following items:

- Death Certificate
- \$300 (cash or check) to cover the Funeral Service

Music Selections

Opening Hymns

Amazing Grace #430
Be Not Afraid #450
Jesus, Remember Me #595
The King of Love #784
On Eagle’s Wings #698
To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King #800
What Wondrous Love Is This #828
We Walk by Faith #823

Psalms– On Pages 7-8

Preparation of the Gifts

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus #426
Be Not Afraid #450
Lord of All Hopefulness #622
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say #572

Communion Hymns

Eat This Bread #512
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent #609
Gift of Finest Wheat #528
O Living Bread from Heaven #670
Prayer of St. Francis #724
Where Charity and Love Prevail #832
Communion Meditation
Ave Maria—Solo

Panis Angelicus—Solo
Just a Closer Walk with Thee—Solo

Recessional Hymns

All Creatures of Our God and King #410
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise #424
How Great Thou Art #569
I Know That My Redeemer Lives #573
Jesus Christ is Risen Today #589
Sing With All the Saints in Glory #754
The Strife is O’er #787
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #838

The songs selected are in the parish hymnal, allowing those in attendance to sing along.

If you wish to select other songs, contact the Music Director, to determine whether those songs are acceptable.

Songs printed in purple can **not** be used during the season of Lent.

Gospel Reading Options (continued)

22. Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

We have selected the most commonly used and appropriate readings to ease this difficult process. Additional readings from Sacred Scripture may be chosen with approval. Please select a reading from this booklet, in case the other reading is not approved.

Music

The list on the following page contains music which is suitable for a Funeral Mass. These songs are found in our parish hymnal. Traditionally, four songs are used: Processional Song, Offertory Song, Communion Song, and Recessional Song. An additional song may be used as a communion meditation.

Voice, Organ/Piano are the standard instruments used at Parish Liturgies; therefore, no other instruments will be allowed for Funerals.

If the family desires to have someone they know sing a particular song, that person must contact the music director prior to the funeral. A family may not bring in their own musician or organist.

Readings and Music Selections

The funeral Rite itself has already been planned by the Church. Yet, families are encouraged to meet with members of the bereavement committee to discuss and select the readings and music for Mass. We have provided a list of readings and music selections in this booklet. If unsure of what hymns to select, the Music Director can select the music that complements the readings you have selected.

Words of Remembrance/Eulogies

Although it is important for people to express words of appreciation for the deceased, the Mass is not an appropriate time for such remarks. **No eulogies during the Mass.** The General Instructions for the Roman Missal directs in paragraph 382 that, "*At the Funeral Mass there should, as a rule, be a short homily, but never a eulogy of any kind.*"

The Rite of Christian Burial provides several opportunities for family/friends to speak in remembrance: **Visitation** either the night before or morning of, **Committal** at the cemetery, or at the **Reception** afterwards.

Funeral Mass

The parish church is the proper place for the Mass of Christian Burial. The Mass, no matter the context, is always focused on Jesus, His work of salvation, and our hope in the Resurrection. We go to Mass to give thanks and praise to the Father. We gather as a Christian community to pray for the deceased, to seek comfort through the words of Sacred Scripture, and to be nourished by the food of eternity. The Mass is the most important action we do as Catholics, and proper respect for the rites and rituals must be given, as well as the policies and general practices of St. Ann.

Flowers

Flowers may be placed in the church, prior to Mass, but other decorations/flowers are not to be moved. Flowers also may be brought forward by the family during the opening procession or the procession of gifts (bread and wine). Flowers are to be placed in a vase near or next to the casket or remains.

Visitation at St. Ann

Families may use our Gathering Space for a visitation in the morning, prior to the funeral Mass but only for one hour. We are happy to provide this service free of charge. However, we are not a funeral home and have some limitations. For example, on Tuesdays, when the parish school is in session. Please contact the parish office or funeral home to see if the Gathering Space is available for your particular day. If a family requests the use of the Gathering Space for more than one hour, there will be a charge of \$100.00 (check made payable to St. Ann).

Since we are not a funeral home, there are several restrictions. For example— we are unable to provide a TV, chairs, tables, etc. Nor do we allow non-parish decorations to be used. Funeral homes can provide most of these requests, so please consider this when making your decision where to hold the Visitation.

Committal (Cemetery)

The Rite of Committal must be celebrated at the cemetery following the Mass. A priest/deacon, if available, will accompany you to the cemetery for the service.

Eulogy/Words of Remembrance – It is always praiseworthy to offer words of remembrance about the life of the deceased, but doing so in the proper context and setting. During the Mass is not that context. Words of remembrance are best offered either at the committal service or reception afterwards.

Veteran

If the deceased is a veteran, the funeral home can make arrangements for a military service. If not using a funeral home, you must contact the military directly.

Flower Delivery

Please have the flowers delivered to the parish during business hours or you may have the flowers sent to the funeral home for them to bring to the church.

Gospel Reading Options (continued)

20. John 11: 32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

21. John 14: 1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

2nd Reading Options (continued)

17. I Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

Gospel Reading Options

18. Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

19. John 6:51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

1st Reading Options (During The Easter Season)

(50 days after Easter Sunday, ending with Pentecost)

1. Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word [that] he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

2. Revelation 20:11-21:1

Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.* The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

1st Reading Options (Easter Season cont'd)

3. Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I [am] the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

1st Reading Options (Outside of the Easter Season)

4. II Maccabees 12:43-46

He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin.

5. Lamentations 3:17-26

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the Lord. The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; Remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness! The Lord is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in him. The Lord is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the Lord's deliverance.

2nd Reading Options (continued)

15. I Corinthians 15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

16. II Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation if indeed, when we have taken it off, we shall not be found naked. For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

Second Reading Options

12. Romans 6:3-9

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

13. Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ [Jesus] who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

14. Romans 14:7-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

1st Reading Options (continued)

6. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

7. Isaiah 25:7-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us! This is the LORD to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

8. Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if to others, indeed, they seem punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their judgment they shall shine and dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

Psalm Options

9. Psalm 23: 1-6

R./ The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I lack.

In green pastures He makes me lie down;
to still waters He leads me; He restores my soul.

He guides me along right paths for the sake of His name.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff comfort me.

You set a table before me in front of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for endless days.

10. Psalm 103: 8,10,13-18

R./ The Lord is kind and merciful

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
He has not dealt with us as our sins merit,
nor requited us as our wrongs deserve.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like the grass;
he blossoms like a flower in the field.
A wind sweeps over it and it is gone;
its place knows it no more.

But the Lord's mercy is from age to age,
toward those who fear him.
His salvation is for the children's children
of those who keep his covenant,
and remember to carry out his precepts.

Psalm Options (continued)

11. Psalm 27:1-6

R./ The Lord is my life and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

When evildoers come at me
to devour my flesh,
these my enemies and foes
themselves stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart does not fear;
Though war be waged against me,
even then do I trust.

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the Lord's house
all the days of my life,
To gaze on the Lord's beauty,
to visit his temple.

For God will hide me in his shelter
in time of trouble,
He will conceal me in the cover of his tent;
and set me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is held high
above my enemies on every side!
I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and chant praise to the Lord.